

REMARKS

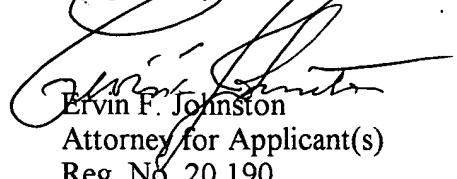
Claims 2, 7-9, 12 and 16-18 have been cancelled and new claims 40-47 have been added so that claims 34-47 are now in the application.

The Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 34-39 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been so rewritten and should now be in condition for allowance. The objections to the base claims 12 and 39, which have been incorporated into the allowable claims 34-39, have been overcome by amendments thereto. "The ABS" has been amended to --an air bearing surface (ABS)--; the word "actuator" has been changed to the phrase --actuator positioning means-- and the preamble phrase "a magnetic head assembly" has been changed to the phrase --a magnetic disk drive--.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner permit the entry of new claims 40-47. Each of these claims are dependent upon various ones of the allowable claims 34-39. Claims 40 and 41 are dependent upon allowable claim 34, claims 42 and 43 are dependent upon allowable claim 35, claims 44 and 45 are dependent upon allowable claim 37 and claims 46 and 47 are dependent upon allowable claim 38. Applicants' new claims 40-47 read upon elected Group II and elected Species I.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this document he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Ervin F. Johnston
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 20,190
Telephone: 808-661-1197
Fax: 808-661-9797